>

Title: Regarding huge devastation caused by Cyclone 'Thane' in Cuddalore and Villupuram Districts of Tamil Nadu.

*SHRI M. ANANDAN (VILUPPURAM): Hon. Chairman, I thank you for the opportunity given to me. Recent 'Thane" cyclone that hit hard Tamil Nadu with a very high intensity has caused a huge havoc in Villupuram and Cuddalore Districts. In order to attend to the needs of the affected people, Puratchi Thalaivi, Amma, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu swung in to action on a war-footing. So as to bring about normalcy at the earliest, the TN CM, our Leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, released 150 crores of rupees as the first instalment and an amount of Rs.200 crore as second instalment. In order to extend the relief measures 35 relief centres were set up to help about 6000 affected people. They were provided with food and drinking water. Every affected family was given an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 1000/-. Apart from that sarees and dhoties were distributed to those who lost their homes and belongings. Kerosene was also supplied to those families. As the power distribution was disrupted by the heavy cyclone, even candles were supplied to people in several areas including rural areas. Cuddalore and Viluppuram alone 3.5 lakhs of huts and tiled houses were damaged both fully and partly. 58,000 hectares of paddy cultivated fields and 23,500 hectares of cashew crop cultivated areas were heavily affected resulting in total perishment of those crops. Sugarcane in 5752 hectares of land were also

damaged. Plantains, pulses, cotton and jackfruit trees cultivated in 8947 hectares of land uprooted and perished in the severe Thane Cyclone. A central observers team visited the affected areas and a mere Rs. 500 crore relief was announced. But the centre continues to remain indifferent. Our leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has written to the Centre urging upon them to provide Rs. 5749 crore to help rehabilitate all those who have been heavily affected. It is saddening that there is step motherly attitude on the part of the centre. It must change and the Union Government must rush to extend the needed rehabilitation measures to the Thane Cyclone affected people in Cuddalore and Villupuram Districts of Tamil Nadu.